**MINUTES** of the **ORDINARY MEETING OF STANLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

Held in Stanley Civic Hall on Tuesday 22nd March 2022 at 6.30pm

**PRESENT**: O Milburn\* C Bell G Binney H Clark A Clegg D Fall L Ferry C Hampson

A Hanson M Martin J Nicholson M Thompson

A Jones J McMahon S McMahon J Stephenson

D Tully

\*Chairman

**OFFICERS**: Helen Richardson (Town Clerk)

Ann Barry (Finance Officer)

Michelle Robertson (Events & Administration Support Officer)

Sarah Parkin (Events & Administration Support Officer)

**GUESTS**: Police Inspector Dave Stewart, Northumbria Police

Sergeant Terry Archibald, Northumbria Police

**226** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members **RECEIVED** apologies from Cllr K Coulson. Absent Cllr J Kane.

**227** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**228** **MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Clerk provided an update to the attendees to confirm that whilst the deputy town clerk has left the team, they were continuing to review lots of processes and have this week welcomed another new temporary member to the team.

Mayors Awards – waiting for submissions for anyone who wants to nominate for a Mayors award

The Town Clerk also advised that a letter had been received from the NHS for the incoming Mayor – they would like us to consider supporting the NHS Charity for the coming year.

Double Taxation Update – it had been agreed in principle not to proceed further with CDALC, however if there are any comments anyone would wish to make, they are to be submitted to Durham County Council by 30th April 2022.

With respect to the appeal to support The Ukraine, thanks and appreciation have been passed to the residents of Stanley for their generosity and their donations. Additional thanks passed to Cllr J McMohan and Cllr C Marshall who travelled to Ukraine to deliver much needed supplies.

**229** **LEADER’S STATEMENT**

Cllr J Stephenson, Leader of Stanley Town Council acknowledged that there had been an eventful month with changes of staff, thanking them for their efforts and wishing them well for the future. Also, welcoming new members to the team.

Cllr J Stephenson also spoke about the Civic Hall update on D3 Report – discussion around the condition of the Civic Hall and the ongoing maintenance for the building. Currently acting as a sticking plaster to cover over the wounds. New report suggests an estimated costs of around £3M.

The heating has been condemned since 15th March 2022.

Stanley Town Council are asking Durham County Council, as the landlord of the building, if they could support in partnership to help Stanley Town Council with the repairs to the building. The alternative option would be to hand back the building to DCC at the end of the lease period for them to close the building.

**230** **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions from the floor and no questions submitted before the meeting.

**231** **POLICE UPDATE** *(moved up the agenda)*

Police Inspector Dave Stewart and Sergeant Terry Archibald in attendance to give the police update.

The Town Clerk would like to bring to the discussion the topic of the police/ warden vehicles, advising that the current contract between Stanley Town Council and The Police is coming to the end of the contract term and decisions need to be made moving forwards. The Town Clerk feels that this needs further discussion, however the contract for one of the vehicles comes to an end on Friday 25th March 2022.

Inspector Stewart confirmed that the vans used by Stanley Town Council wardens are funded as part of the Police Fleet Scheme where STC pay an element towards this cost, and the police would like to continue to support and there are two options for consideration.

1. To keep the current vehicles in operation – the cost would be £5K per van, this would include all the maintenance, signage and servicing and MOT.

2. To replace the current vehicles with newer vans and continue the current arrangement as is.

Invitation for any questions – there was none, Cllr A Clegg had thought the contract was for 5 years, this was clarified as only 3 years from the date when the vans arrived in the possession of STC. It was agreed that a further discussion needed to be had.

**Questions posed for answer by the Police**

**Anti-Social Behaviour**

* + - Do the Police put youths in front of the youth court – yes, eventually, this is the end part of the process.

* + - Do the police think they address the youth justice system appropriately – the police will consider the background of each individual. Stay safe operation Nov time.

* Are police keeping an eye on Stanley Front Street and the bus station – Police are keeping an eye on this. Youth anti-social behaviour accounts for 5.5% of crime in Stanley. There are 3 PCs patrolling across Stanley, and a number of PCSOs – however, there is no coverage Monday or Tuesday evening

* What has been done about anti-social behaviour in Stanley bus station – police understand this is a lure for young people – they have tried piping classic musical and mosquito noise across the speakers, they have tried stationing security guards on site, however this has had no effect. Police do put the shutters down on the bus station 5 nights out of 7. Trouble now around the concourse rather than in the bus station.

* How will police presence be affected now the Summer is approaching – police staffing does not change in the summer – there is likely to be more park presence than town centre.

The majority of kids in Stanley are nice. It is the minority who cause the issues. Youth anti-social behaviour is down by 37% this month from the last two years, however, due to the effects and restrictions following COVID, this is not a true reflection on figures.

* + Question posed by Cllr C Hampson

**The Police have recently been having a recruitment drive for**  **neighbourhood police – how many are being allocated to Stanley?**

Inspector Stewart confirmed that Durham County Council have continued to staff PCSOs unlike some areas where cuts have been made, the priorities when allocated new police staff will be to safeguarding and CID before more PCSOs

Comment by Cllr C Marshall who shared positive praise and feedback about the things that the local police response team do in Stanley, dealing with incidents. Thank you to the Police and the Stanley police community team.

No further questions or comments. Thank you to Terry and Dave for coming in – police left the meeting.

**232** **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

No matters arising from previous minutes. It was proposed by Cllr A Clegg, seconded by Cllr C Bell and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 22nd February 2022 be **APPROVED** and signed by the Town Mayor as a true record.

**233 & 234** **RECEIPT OF COMMITTEE MINUTES and ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT &**  **BANK RECONCILIATION**

It was proposed by Cllr A Hanson, seconded by Cllr C Bell and **RESOLVED** that Council **RECEIVE** the minutes from the Finance & General Purposes Committee held of 15th February 2022.

The same **APPROVED** the payments for January 2022 and **NOTED** the bank reconciliation for January 2022.

**235** **BUDGET MONITORING REPORT**

Budget monitoring report for Quarter 3 201/2022 **NOTED** and accepted by all.

**236** **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS**

Internal Audit Reports **NOTED** and accepted by all.

**237** **CIVIC HALL – D3 REPORT**

Update from The Town Clerk.

Heating went off Tuesday last week therefore STC team are only heating the rooms which are being used.

The Town Clerk have met with Durham County Council on Monday and they have taken the conditioning report away for consideration. The Town Clerk has asked for a quick response.

DCC have provided a quote for a temporary boiler unit for around £20K to be attached to current boiler room. The building has 5 boilers, however, the building has been operating on 1 boiler for the last 5 years, therefore an alternative quote has been sought for 1 boiler with a new flue which additional boilers could be added to in the future. This could be costed at less than £20K.

Stanley Town Council have some big events coming up and the smaller committee rooms use may be quite cold

Suggestion from Cllr C Marshall was to ensure the request was put in writing to DCC. He questioned the due diligence which had taken place or which should have taken place when the lease agreement commenced between STC and DCC.

Stanley Civic Hall is a valuable community asset, a theatre and arts venue – considering the budget of £80M funds which DCC have available to support the upcoming City of Culture Bid, DCC should be showing support and not letting an arts and theatre venue be closed down. STC are the tenants, DCC are the owners of the building,

**238** **EVENTS 2022**

Events Committee asked Council to notethe minutes from the Events Working Group from 19th February 2022. Minutes **NOTED.** Committee **APPROVED** the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 8th March 2022 that Option 1 is the preferred program for 2022 events. **Approved** by Cllr A Clegg, **seconded** by Cllr C Bell.

**239** **STAFFING UPDATE**

Members **NOTED** the staffing update provided by the Town Clerk. Appreciating there have been some major changes to the staff, rather than replace with them with permanent members of staff, it has been decided to move forwards with temporary staff to enable a review of processes to see what Stanley Town Council have and what they need, streamlining the way we work and improving admin processes. STC still have events booked in, and have a steady flow of enquiries for bookings, therefore it is important to build on standards to ensure an excellent customer experience to enhance the reputation of Stanley Town Council.

**240** **FOOLS GOLD**

Fools Gold have requested support from Stanley Town Council with a grant application for the development of a new show. Further information is required before decisions could be made. Cllr C Marshall happy to support.

**241** **DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 26th April 2022, 6.30pm, Stanley Civic Hall.